

FISHING

	ALL DATES INCLUSIVE	Daily Creel	Length ¹
TROUT²			
lakes, ponds, major rivers ³	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	3	—
all other rivers and brooks ⁴	April 1 - Sept. 10	8	—
	Sept. 11 - March 31	3	—
South Pond, Brookfield ⁵	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	3	15"
LAKE TROUT			
Wachusett Reservoir ⁶	"	3	—
Quabbin ^{6,7}	"	4	less than 20"
		1	greater than 23"
SALMON (landlocked)	"	2	15"
SALMON (broodstock) ⁸	"	2	15"
AMERICAN SHAD	"	6	—
CHAIN PICKEREL	"	5	15"
BLACK BASS (Largemouth and Smallmouth, singly or combined):	"	5	12"
NORTHERN PIKE	"	1	28"
TIGER MUSKIE	"	1	28"
WALLEYE	"	5	14"
SMELT ⁹			
	Jan. 1 - Feb. 29	—	—
	May 16 - Dec. 31	—	—
ALL OTHER FRESHWATER SPECIES	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	—	—

STRIPED BASS: For current regulations call the Division of Marine Fisheries at (617) 626-1520, or visit their website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.

POSSESSION OF: Sturgeon (all species), American Brook Lamprey, Bridle Shiner, Burbot, Eastern Silvery Minnow, Lake Chub, Longnose Sucker, and Northern Redbelly Dace IS ILLEGAL! If caught RELEASE IMMEDIATELY.

¹Minimum length is measured as the straight line (not curved over the body) from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. Forked tails may be squeezed together for the final measurement.

²Trout applies to Brook, Brown, Rainbow and Tiger (a cross between a female brown and a male brook trout). From April 1 to September 10, no more than eight trout as defined may be taken daily, and only three of those trout may be from lakes, ponds, or major rivers. From Sept. 11 to Mar. 31, no more than three trout as defined, may be taken daily.

³Major Rivers: Childs, Coonamessett, Deerfield, Farmington, Green (Colrain), Green (Great Barrington), Ipswich, Jones, Mashpee, Millers, Nissitissit, North (Colrain), North (West Branch), Parker, Quaboag, Quinapoxet, Quinebaug, Seven Mile, Santuit, Scorton Creek, Shawsheen, Squannacook, Stillwater (Sterling, Princeton), Swift (East Branch), Swift (Winsor Dam to Ware River, except as posted), Tully (East and West Branches) Ware, Ware (East Branch), Westfield (All Branches).

⁴Mainstem Housatonic River from the confluence of the East and West Branches to the MA/CT line, exclusive of catch and release areas, limit one trout, minimum length 20 inches.

⁵Special brown trout water: Total daily creel is 3 trout but only 1 may be a brown trout and it must be at least 15 inches.

⁶Opening and closing dates are set by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. For Quabbin Reservoir call 413-323-7221, for Wachusett / Sudbury Reservoirs call 978-365-3272. The use of lead fishing sinkers including, but not limited to, split shot, bullet weights, egg sinkers, slip sinkers, bell sinkers, pinch sinkers, rubber grip sinkers, bank sinkers, pyramid sinkers, or twist, strap or wraparound sinkers for the taking of fish in Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs is prohibited. Lead fishing sinkers **DO NOT** include other lead-fishing related items such as artificial lures, jigs, lead-core line, down-rigger weights, keel sinkers, torpedo casting and trolling sinkers, or weighted flies.

⁷Lake trout at Quabbin measuring 20"-23" (inclusive) are protected. NO HARVEST!

⁸The harvest of broodstock salmon (Atlantic salmon) is lawful in all inland waters of Massachusetts except in: 1) the Connecticut River and all its tributaries, and 2) the Merrimack River downstream of the Essex Dam in Lawrence, MA and all its tributaries downstream of the Essex Dam in Lawrence, MA. The possession of an Atlantic salmon (including broodstock salmon) while fishing in the Connecticut River and all its tributaries and in the Merrimack River downstream of the Essex Dam in Lawrence, MA and all its tributaries downstream of the Essex Dam in Lawrence, MA is prohibited.

⁹Smelt may be taken by hook and line only.

Bait: Permit required to take baitfish for purpose of sale. **Frogs** (except leopard frogs) 2-1/2" or less snout to vent may be used as bait; 10 daily, 10 in possession. May not be sold. **Baitfish** may be taken by licensed anglers at any time (except for purposes of sale) with a rectangular net not exceeding 36 square feet of net area or by a hoop or circular net not exceeding 6 feet in diameter or with a fish trap with openings not exceeding one inch. The following species may be taken for personal use as bait by licensed anglers:

American eel	Banded killifish	Bluntnose minnow
Creek chubsucker	Emerald shiner	Fallfish
Fathead minnow	Golden shiner	Herring*
Mummichog	Pumpkinseed	Rainbow smelt [†]
Spottail shiner	White sucker	Yellow perch

[†] Hook and line only. Possession or use of smelt as bait in inland waters other than during the smelt season is prohibited.

* Herring may be used as bait in the Connecticut River, the Merrimack River and coastal rivers and streams. Herring MAY NOT be used as bait in lakes or ponds. Taking of herring regulated by Div. Marine Fisheries.